

Thank You!

To the individuals, organisations and churches who donated Christmas parcels, food and toys to the Rainbow Project just before Christmas.



Christmas food boxes donated by Year 3 of the Nottingham High School for Girls (left)

Toys donated by St. Jude's Church, Mapperley. (right)



**We are always delighted to receive food items for the
Rainbow Basket.**

especially during this cold weather, so if you, your church or community group would like to support us as we help people seeking sanctuary, please contact us to arrange delivery.

The following items are especially welcome:

Tinned food e.g. chick peas, kidney beans, tomatoes, fruit, spicy soups.
(No baked beans please—not everyone loves them as much as we do!)

Dried food such as rice, pasta, chick peas, lentils, coffee, teabags, sugar, spices, dried milk, breakfast cereal, cassava/manioc/yam./chickpea flour.

Toiletries such as shampoo, toothpaste/brushes, soap, shower gel, handcream.

Welcome!

..... to the latest edition of the Nottingham Rainbow Project Newsletter! We hope that you are able to take time to enjoy reading news of the Project as well as making a note of events for your diary.

We begin the New Year with renewed **hope** as we support and wait with people Who have fled their homeland for the relative safety of the UK with **gratitude** for our staff and volunteers, with **concern** over the current economic climate and resulting effect on the poorest in society.

We invite you to join with us in prayer, practical and financial support for the Nottingham Rainbow Project as we seek to show the love of God to those around us.

Currently, the future of the Nottingham Rainbow Project is looking uncertain, as we have lost our major source of funding . Without further funding we will be unable to continue our vital work with those seeking sanctuary in the UK.

Day of prayer

Twice a year we gather to pray for the work of the Nottingham Rainbow Project, the lives of local sanctuary seekers, and any related issues that the Holy Spirit brings to us.

In October we spent a Saturday at St. Peter's Church in Nottingham City Centre, where we shared lunch, prayed and then shared communion together.

Our day of prayer coincided with a monthly concert inside the church, and so we were treated to a beautiful piano recital while we were setting up displays. We also had opportunity over coffee, to talk to the many people who attended the concert.

The chancel provided a beautiful setting in which to reflect and pray for the many countries of the world from which people flee for their lives.

We prayed for all the people known to us who are seeking sanctuary in Nottingham, from those who have recently arrived here, to people who have been waiting for many years, with faith that although their circumstances may be difficult, they are all known to God, and loved by Him.



Faith Gakanje, a Zimbabwean refugee and member of the Rainbow Project steering group, has just won a national award to promote her "Big Idea" - a social enterprise called Fagee Fashions. Faith faced stiff competition through 3 stages to win the award, which will be presented in London later this month. Faith says *"I am now pleased as I am working towards setting up my business which I think will sustain and be able to generate funds to help women refugees and new asylum seekers"* We are delighted at this award for Faith, who works tirelessly to encourage asylum seekers and refugees of African origin through the Nottingham African Women's Empowerment Forum.

New Year's Day celebration and meal

We started 2011 by joining the Urdu-speaking congregation of St. Stephen's Church, Hyson Green, for a New Year's service held in Urdu with English translation. The service was very well-attended by people of several nationalities, and gave us opportunity to celebrate our unity in Christ, with our varying backgrounds, customs, dress, music and language. It was a privilege to be there! The service was led by Revd. Graham Burton and Julian Singh, with Revd. Javaid Iqbal, from Leicester, preaching.

After the service, the dining room at the Vine community centre was full to overflowing as we celebrated the start of 2011 with wonderful food and conversation .

Our sense of gratitude to God was heightened by the news that a Christian family of 5 from Pakistan had just received papers from the Home Office granting them indefinite leave to remain in the UK.

After many years of waiting, they can now begin to build their lives afresh.



HOST NOTTINGHAM

Serving destitute asylum seekers.

Could you provide a safe place for a homeless asylum seeker to stay tonight?

If you could offer a spare room to a destitute asylum seeker for a few days, weeks or even months, please consider becoming a host. For more information please initially email your interest to hostnottingham@gmail.com



Prayer Points. . . Prayer Points. . .



And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God' Micah 6:8

- **PRAISE GOD** that since our last newsletter, two families connected with the Rainbow Project have been granted indefinite leave to Remain here .
- **PRAISE GOD** that the Government issued a statement just before Christmas with a view to ending the detention of children for immigration reasons.
- **PRAY** for all people, known to you and known by God, who are seeking sanctuary Pray especially for those who have been waiting a long time.
- **PRAY** for those who work as lawyers specialising in immigration issues, especially at Paragon Law in Nottingham.



Home Office



Dates for your Diary



Saturday 26th March
1pm-4pm
St Stephen's Church, Hyson Green.

Fundraising afternoon for the work of the Rainbow Project. We would welcome donations of good-quality clothing and household goods, plus home-made cakes, during the week before this event.

Please come and support it—we have timed the event so that you can fit in your normal Saturday morning activities!!

2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the Nottingham Rainbow Project, and Racial Justice weekend this year will provide opportunity to celebrate, reflect and look to the future.

Please put the **weekend of 10th - 11th September** in your diary and look out for more details in future newsletters.

Hardship Fund.

We are struggling to support some of our clients financially due to a number of difficult and different situations we and they are now facing.

We would like churches or individuals who feel able to contribute to our work to either to make a one-off donation or to set up a regular arrangement so that we can better help those who come to us in dire straits.

We thank you in anticipation

Visit our website

This gives up-to-date information on all that is happening with the Rainbow Project, including dates and details of events, and how to contact us.

www.nottinghamrainbowproject.org

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